

List of Claims:

1-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently amended) A ~~fibrous~~ nonwoven fibrous mat comprising about 90 to about 65 wt. percent glass fibers, the majority of the fibers having a fiber diameter of 13 +/- 3 microns and a length in the range of about 0.4 to about 1.2 inches, the fibers in the web being bound together by about [5] 10 to about 25 [30] weight percent of a binder that is at least partially cured and comprises before drying and curing a homopolymer or a copolymer of polyacrylic acid and a polyol, the mat passing the flammability test of NFPA, Method #701, the mat having a Taber stiffness of greater than about 40.

63. (Original) The mat according to claim 62, wherein the average molecular weight of the polyacrylic acid polymer is about 3,000 or less.

64. (Currently amended) The mat according to claim 62, wherein the polyol is triethanolamine and the Taber Stiffness of the mat is at least 50.

65. (Original) The mat according to claim 63, wherein the polyol is triethanolamine.

66. (Original) The mat of claim 62 wherein the average fiber diameter is about 13 +/- 1.5 microns.

67. (Original) The mat of claim 62 wherein the average fiber diameter is about 13 +/- 1 micron.

68. (Currently amended) The mat of claim 63 wherein the average fiber diameter is about 13 +/- 1.5 microns and the Taber Stiffness of the mat is at least 50.

69. (Original) The mat of claim 63 wherein the average fiber diameter is about 13 +/- 1 micron.

70. (Original) The mat of claim 65 wherein the average fiber diameter is about 13 +/- 1.5 microns.

71. (Original) The mat of claim 65 wherein the average fiber diameter is about 13 +/- 1 micron.

72. (Original) The mat of claim 62 wherein the binder content of the mat is in the range of about 10 to about 20 weight percent.

73. (Original) The mat of claim 63 wherein the binder content of the mat is in the range of about 10 to about 20 weight percent.

74. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 65 wherein the binder content of the mat is in the range of about 10 to about 20 weight percent and the mat also contains an effective amount of an organic phosphonate.

75. (Original) The mat of claim 68 wherein the binder content of the mat is in the range of about 10 to about 20 weight percent.

76. (Original) The mat of claim 69 wherein the binder content of the mat is in the range of about 10 to about 20 weight percent.

77. (Original) The mat of claim 62 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

78. (Original) The mat of claim 63 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

79. (Original) The mat of claim 65 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

80. (Original) The mat of claim 68 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

81. (Original) The mat of claim 69 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

82. (Original) The mat of claim 74 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

83. (Original) The mat of claim 75 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

84. (Original) The mat of claim 76 further including one or more of the group consisting of a pigment, a colorant, a filler, a fire- retardant, a biocide, an anti-fungal material and mixtures thereof.

85. (Original) The mat of claim 62 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

86. (Original) The mat of claim 63 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

87. (Original) The mat of claim 65 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

88. (Original) The mat of claim 68 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

89. (Original) The mat of claim 69 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

90. (Original) (Original) The mat of claim 74 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

91. (Original) The mat of claim 75 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

92. (Original) The mat of claim 76 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

93. (Original) The mat of claim 82 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

94. (Original) The mat of claim 83 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.

95. (Original) The mat of claim 84 wherein at least a portion of a surface of the mat contains a hydrophilic material thereon.